

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09052 231357 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 AID-20 ACDA-19

IO-12 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01 DPW-01

RSR-01 INRE-00 /146 W

----- 011279

O 230828 Z MAY 73 ZDG PARA 9

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2046

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9052

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-21 MAY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAY 21  
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0134

1. DURING THE PERIOD 0800 HOURS 18 MAY AND 0800 HOURS 21 MAY COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN PATTERN OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD AS COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS CONTINUED TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS HARASSING IN NATURE. THERE WERE 39 INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF 12 ATTACKS BY FIRE ( ABF), 17 GROUND CONTACTS AND 10 MINE INCIDENTS. TOTAL CASUALTIES REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD WERE 10 FRIENDLY KILLED, 47 WOUNDED, AND 17 COMMUNISTS KILLED.

2. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 91 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 MM AND 82 MMSMORTWR FIRE DJBING THE PERIOD RESULTING IN FOUR RANGERS WOUNDED. DURING NIGHT OF 18 MAY RANGERS HEARD COMMINIST TRUCK MOVEMENT 2 KMS NORTHWEST OF CAMP. ARTILLERY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09052 231357 Z

FIRED ON THE TRUCKS; RESULTS UNKNOWN.

3. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED DURING PERIOD WERE IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. ON 19 MAY AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED ELEMENTS OF 49 TH ARVN REGIMENT 13 KMS EAST OF PHU KHUONG DISTRICT TOWN; RESULTS WERE ONE ARVN KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED. ON 20 MAY ELEMENTS OF 49 TH ARVN REGIMENT WERE AGAIN ATTACKED BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE 12 KMS EAST OF PHU KHUONG RESULTING IF TWO ARVN KILLED, TWO WOUNDED AND FOUR MISSING. NO COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN EITHER CONTACT.

4. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, ON 19 MAY, COMMUNISTS THREW A HAND GRENADE INTO A FARMERS HOUSE 5 KMS NORTHEAST OF TRANG BANG DISTRICT TOWN WOUNDING SIX CIVILIANS.

5. ON 19 MAY COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE 332 ND RF COMPANY 9 KMS NORTH OF BEN LUC DISTRICT TOWN, LONG AN PROVINCE. RESULTS WERE ONE FRIENDLY KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED AND FOUR COMMUNISTS KILLED.

6. ON 18 MAY COMMUNISTS DETONATED AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE DESTROYING ONE SECTION OF A BRIDGE 10 KVS NORTHWEST OF PHU CUONG CITY, BINH DUONG PROVINCE.

7. MINOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN BINH DUONG, HAU NGHIA, BIEN HOA, PHUOC TUY, GIA DINH, BINH TUY, LONG AN, AND TAY NINH PROVINCES.

8. AT MR 3 CG'S WEEKLY BRIEFING MAY 21, CONGEN LEARNED THAT VNAF A-1 AIR STRIKES HAD DESTROYED SEVEN MOLOTOVA TRUCKS MAY 18 AND 19 5 KMS NORTHWEST OF TON LE CHAM. VNAF CLAIMS TO HAVE HIT MOTOR POOL AND AMMO DUMP, IGNITING MANY SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

9. AT RANG RANG IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE ON MAY 21, COMMUNIST GUNFIRE SHOT DOWN A VNAF CHOPPER INSERTING AN AIRBORNE RANGER UNIT REINFORCING THE 81 ST AIRBORNE THERE. EXTRACTION OF CHOPPER PROCEEDING; FRIENDLY CASUALTIES UNKNOWN. THE 81 ST HAS REPORTED THAT CONTRARY TO OTHER REPORTS, THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE REPAIRING RANG RANG AIRSTRIP, MUCH OF WHICH IS UNDER WATER. BUT COMMUNIST VEHICLES ARE MAKING HEAVY USE OF TAD ALTHOUGH RANG RANG ( PRESUMABLY PROVINCIAL ROUTE FOR SUPPLY OPERATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09052 231357 Z

10. CONTRARY TO NHA TRANG 0507, MR 3 CG LTG MINH INSISTS THAT GVN IS FACILITATING ICCS REGION IV INVESTIGATION OF BINH TUY MINING IN WHICH USAID CONTRACTOR RASMUSSEN LOST HIS LIFE. BINH TUY PROVINCE GVN LOST 2 1/2 TON TRUCK TO MINE ON MAY 18 IN EFFORT

TO SECURE AREAS FOR ICCS INVESTIGATORS EXPECTED MAY 19; ONLY CANDEL SHOWED UP AND GVN SHOWED HIM AROUND SO HE COULD TAKE PHOTOS. ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS ARE EXPECTED BACK MAY 24.

11. ICCS REGION V CANDEL TOLD CONGEN MAY 21 THAT REGION V HAS BEEN TASKED WITH INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED U. S. BOMBING IN NORTHERN BINH LONG AND TAY NINH PROVINCES. DECISION TO TASK REGION V WAS REPORTEDLY REACHED AT CENTRAL ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 19 IN SAIGON. PRG ALLEGATION RE U. S. BOMBING OF NORTHERN LOC NINH CHARGES 14 SEPARATE INCIDENTS AND APPENDS NAMES OF 34 PEOPLE ALLEGEDLY WOUNDED. ALLEGATION RE BOMBING IN NORTHERN TAY NINH IS CONSIDERABLY MOGE VAGUE, REFERRING TO "XA MAT AREA" AND CITING TWO DIFFERENT DATES. CANDEL SAID CANADIANS HAVE EXPRESSED EAGERNESS TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENT, BUT HE WAS NOT SANGUINE THAT ICCS AND PRG WOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ON WIDTH OF CORRIDORS AND OTHER SECURITY PROVISIONS FOR INVESTIGATION.

12. ICCS V SCHEDULED TO INTERROGATE TWO RECENTLY CAPTURED NVA POWS AFTERNOON MAY 21. INTERROGATION WAS ARRANGED BY MR 3 CG MINH WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF CONSUL GENERAL (SEE OUR 15 MAY SITREP). NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER POLGARIANS WILL ATTEND. WE WILL COMPARE NOTES WITH CANDEL AND INDODEL TOMORROW ON RESULTS OF INTERROGATION.

13. CANDEL REPORTS SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN PAST 10 DAYS IN POLGARIAN WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG ON INVESTIGATIONS WITHOUT RAISING ARTIFICIAL OBSTACLES. CANDEL SUGGESTED THAT THEIR OBSTRUCTION OF INVESTIGATIONS WAS PROVING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THEM SINCE CANDEL AND INDODEL CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS ANYWAY. HOWEVER, ONCE INVESTIGATION BEGINS, POLGARIANS CONTINUE TO BADGER WITNESSES, TAKE OTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT PRG FROM EMBARRASSMENT, AND GENERALLY TO "MAKE ASSES OF THEMSELVES." SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON09052  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730551/aaaajoll.tel  
**Line Count:** 150  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980226  
**Subject:** DAILY MR 3 SITREP-21 MAY 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAY 21 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE BIEN HOA 0134  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, MILI, PINT  
**To:** EA  
JEC PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005